

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE  
INFO USLOSACLANT NORFOLK PRIORITY  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 160914

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MPOL, TAD

SUBJECT: NATO ARMAMENTS COOPERATION--FAMILY OF WEAPONS

REFS: (A) THE ECONOMIST, JUNE 3, 1978, PAGES 58-59  
(B) USNATO 05827 DTG 081615Z JUNE 78  
(C) STATE 148135 DTG 101825Z JUNE 78  
(D) USNATO 06224 DTG 201649Z JUN 78

1. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS FOR POSTS' USE IN ANSWERING  
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE US-PROPOSED "FAMILY OF WEAPONS" CONCEPT.  
THE CONCEPT HAS COME TO PUBLIC NOTICE RECENTLY AS A  
RESULT OF AN ECONOMIST ARTICLE OF JUNE 3 (REF A). THE CON-  
CEPT WOULD PACKAGE GROUPS OF INTER-RELATED WEAPONS SYSTEMS

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--SUCH AS ANTI-ARMOR, AIR-TO-GROUND, AND AIR-TO-AIR  
WEAPONS--IN A WAY THAT WOULD OPEN UP THE POSSIBILITY OF  
BROADER PARTICIPATION BY NATO MEMBERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT  
AND PRODUCTION OF THESE WEAPONS. IF SUCCESSFUL, THIS  
COULD GIVE A MAJOR BOOST TO ARMS COOPERATION IN NATO,

WHICH WAS ONE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S THREE NATO DEFENSE

INITIATIVES ADOPTED BY THE MAY 1977 NATO SUMMIT.

2. THE PERTINENT PART OF THE ECONOMIST ARTICLE STATED: "THE PLAN (THE NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM ADOPTED BY LAST MONTH'S NATO SUMMIT) LOOKS FAR ENOUGH AHEAD TO PERMIT THE WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT FOR IT TO BE CONCEIVED, DESIGNED AND PRODUCED IN A MORE ORDERLY AND LESS INEFFICIENT WAY THAN UNDER THE PRESENT EVERY-COUNTRY-FOR-ITSELF SYSTEM. BUT THERE WAS ALSO A SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE ARMAMENT DIRECTORS OF FRANCE, GERMANY, BRITAIN, AND THE UNITED STATES HAD AGREED TO GET ARMS COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND AMERICA WORKING FASTER. FOUR FAMILIES OF WEAPONS WILL BE AFFECTED: ANTI-TANK, AIR-TO-SURFACE, AIR-TO-AIR, AND ANTI-SHIP. WITHIN THE ANTI-TANK CATEGORY, EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WILL DEVELOP HEAVY WEAPONS AND THE UNITED STATES MEDIUM, AND PERHAPS LIGHT, ONES; IN ANTI-SHIP AND AIR-TO-AIR WEAPONS, THE UNITED STATES WILL DEVELOP LONG-RANGE ONES AND EUROPE SHORT-RANGE; AND IN THE AIR-TO-SURFACE FIELD SEVERAL WEAPONS ARE EARMARKED FOR EXCLUSIVE AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS A BOLD EXPERIMENT, AND THE MOST PROMISING EFFORT IN THIS DIRECTION YET."

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA OR NATO ALLIES, YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:  
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-- THERE WAS NO ANNOUNCEMENT MADE AT THE SUMMIT REGARDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US, FRANCE, FRG, AND UK ON FAMILIES OF WEAPONS, AS REPORTED BY THE ECONOMIST.

-- THE US RAISED THE FAMILY OF WEAPONS CONCEPT WITH NATO ALLIES AT THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATO CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS LAST OCT 25-26. THE US REPRESENTATIVE, THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING DR. WILLIAM PERRY, PROPOSED THAT, IN ORDER TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS BY INDIVIDUAL NATO MEMBERS, ALLIES SHOULD WORK OUT AGREEMENTS ON FAMILIES OF WEAPONS WHERE EACH COUNTRY AGREES TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A GIVEN SYSTEM IN THE FAMILY AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES AGREE TO BUY THAT SYSTEM INsofar AS POSSIBLE FROM THE SINGLE MANUFACTURER. BY THIS CONCEPT OF MUTUALLY AGREED FAMILIES OF SYSTEMS WE CAN ACHIEVE THE MILITARY BENEFITS OF STANDARDIZATION, AS WELL AS THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF SHARED PRODUCTION AND REDUCED UNIT COST.

-- THE US SUBSEQUENTLY HAS DISCUSSED THE FAMILY OF

WEAPONS CONCEPT WITH FRANCE, FRG, AND UK. THEY AGREE THAT THE APPROACH HAS PROMISE, BUT NO FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

HAVE BEEN AGREED ON.

-- THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP) RECOMMENDS SEVERAL POSSIBLE WEAPON FAMILIES FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT, THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO AGREEMENT BY THE ALLIES ON THE SPECIFICS OF THE FAMILIES.

4. IF ASKED, POSTS SHOULD ALSO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN NATO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS:

-- WE SUGGEST THAT THE ALLIANCE BEGIN CONSIDERATION  
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OF THE FAMILY OF WEAPONS CONCEPT IN TERMS OF THE FOLLOWING WEAPONS FAMILIES TAKEN FROM THOSE IDENTIFIED BY THE LTDP FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT:

. A FAMILY OF AIR-TO-GROUND WEAPONS, WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE SUCH WEAPONS AS THE FRENCH ATLIS II LASER DESIGNATOR FOR A SINGLE PLACE AIRCRAFT, A GERMAN MULTI-PURPOSE SUBMUNITION, A BRITISH AIRFIELD ATTACK SYSTEM, AND THE US MAVERICK GUIDED WEAPON.

. A FAMILY OF ANTI-SURFACE SHIP MISSILES (ASSM). A NATO ASSM PROGRAM HAS BEEN INITIATED UNDER FR, UK, AND FRG LEADERSHIP, ALTHOUGH THE US AND OTHERS ARE PARTICIPATING IN A MORE LIMITED WAY. COMPLEMENTING THIS EFFORT, THE US IS DEVELOPING A LONGER-RANGE ANTI-SURFACE SHIP MISSILE.

. A FAMILY OF ANTI-TANK GUIDED WEAPONS. FRANCE, THE FRG, AND THE UK HAVE AN AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE IN REPLACING CURRENT SYSTEMS. THE US HAS SIMILAR REPLACEMENT NEEDS AND IS SEEKING A COOPERATIVE APPROACH WITH ITS ALLIES.

-- THE US HOPES THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER WORK ON THE WEAPONS FAMILY APPROACH TO WEAPONS HARMONIZATION BY THE CNAD IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOLLOW-UP ON THE NATO LTDP, AS WELL AS BY COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL ALLIES THAT HAVE PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS. WE INTEND TO PROPOSE AT THE TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE MEETING IN BRUSSELS JUNE 28-29 THAT THAT FORUM TAKE UP INITIALLY THE FAMILIES OF ANTI-ARMOR AND ASSM WEAPONS (SEE SEPTEL).

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